



## **Citizens Clean Elections Commission**

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### **CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO ADDRESS \$5 QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### *Education Campaign to Communicate with Voters the Opportunities to Get Involved in the Political Process*

**PHOENIX (August 9, 2005)** – The Citizens Clean Elections Commission (Commission), a state agency that administers the Citizens Clean Elections Act (Act), announced today it is launching a statewide education campaign to communicate with Arizona voters about the opportunities available to participate in the 2005-2006 election cycle. Registered voters may now donate \$5 qualifying campaign contributions to participating Clean Elections candidates running for statewide offices.

To qualify for Commission funding, a participating candidate is required to collect a minimum number of \$5 qualifying contributions from individuals registered to vote. Statewide candidates were eligible to begin collecting \$5 qualifying contributions for their campaign as of August 1, 2005. Legislative candidates may not begin collecting \$5 qualifying contributions until January 1, 2006. Any registered voter in Arizona is eligible to contribute to candidates in their district, and may contribute to more than one candidate if they choose. Political party affiliation of the candidate or registered voter does not matter.

“The Clean Elections Act was established in Arizona to provide a way for citizens to participate in the electoral process, and to put more control over the political process in the hands of voters,” said Autumn Southard, voter education manager of the Commission. “Voters do not have to contribute a lot of money to have influence in the political process. With only a \$5 contribution, their voice can be heard.”

To qualify for Clean Elections campaign funding, a candidate must have been certified as a participating candidate and must obtain the following number of \$5 qualifying contributions: Governor – 4,200; Secretary of State – 2,625; Attorney General – 2,625; Treasurer – 1,575; Superintendent of Public Instruction – 1,575; Corporation Commissioner – 1,575; Mine Inspector – 525; Legislature – 210.

#### **About the Citizens Clean Elections Commission**

The Citizens Clean Elections Act, which was passed by voters in 1998, created a new campaign financing system that provides full public funding to qualified candidates who agree to abide by Citizens Clean Elections Commission guidelines. Candidates for statewide and legislative offices are eligible to participate in the public funding program.

To qualify for funding, participating candidates must adhere to strict spending and contribution limits and gather \$5 qualifying contributions from a number of registered voters. Participating candidates also agree to attend required debates. For more information visit the Citizens Clean Elections Commission website: [www.azcleanelections.gov](http://www.azcleanelections.gov).

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